

## FAST FUEL FACTS

# Propane

### FUEL DESCRIPTION

- ◆ Liquefied petroleum gas, or LPG (commonly called propane), is a liquid mixture (at least 90% propane, 2.5% butane and higher hydrocarbons, and the balance ethane and propylene). It is a by-product of natural gas processing or petroleum refining.

### DOMESTIC CONTENT OF FUEL

- ◆ Based on Energy Policy Act definition, between 95% and 98%.



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### FUELING

- ◆ Similar to filling gas grill tank; time comparable to that needed for gasoline or diesel fuel.
- ◆ Tank should be filled to no more than 80% capacity to allow for liquid expansion as ambient temperature rises.

### FUEL AVAILABILITY

- ◆ Publicly accessible fueling stations exist in all states — over 5,000 are documented, and twice that number may exist. Directory is available; *Contact sources on back.*

## VEHICLE EXPERIENCE AND AVAILABILITY

- ◆ Over 350,000 on- and off-road propane-powered units in U.S., about 3.5 million worldwide.
- ◆ Currently available only as conversions.
- ◆ Ford offers factory-installed conversion package option for medium-duty F600/F700 (21,000 to 35,000 pound GVWR) trucks.

## OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

- ◆ Range is almost equivalent to that of comparable gasoline vehicle.
- ◆ Power, acceleration, payload, and cruise speed are comparable with those of an equivalent internal-combustion engine.

## MAINTENANCE AND RELIABILITY

- ◆ Good reliability, slightly longer engine lifetime, and reduced maintenance costs generally reported. Always follow maintenance instructions regarding lubrication.

## SAFETY

- ◆ Training is required to operate and maintain vehicles.

## COSTS

- ◆ Bulk fuel purchases provide about a one-fifth saving in cost compared to gasoline.
- ◆ Ford factory-installed truck conversion costs about \$1,000 over the conventional vehicle base price; nonfactory conversions average about \$2,500.
- ◆ Cost to build fueling station is similar to, or lower than, comparably sized gasoline dispensing system.
- ◆ May need to purchase service and diagnostic equipment if access to commercial propane vehicle maintenance facilities is not available.

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

- ◆ National Propane Gas Association  
(708/515-0600)
- ◆ Propane Vehicle Coalition  
(202/371-6262)
- ◆ National Association of Fleet Administrators  
(908/494-8100)
- ◆ National Alternative Fuels Hotline  
(800/423-1DOE)

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